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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Troop Camps Northeast of Brest and West of Bittkau

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DATE PREPARED 6 September 1951

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1. On 15 and 16 August 1951, it was determined that a military reservation extended along the north side of the Tangerhuetten-Tangermunde (U 53/Y 73) road for about 2 km starting at a point 1 km northeast of Weissewarthe (K 53/Y 83). The restricted area contained a troop camp. The roads leading to it were blocked by mounds and deep ditches. An unpaved road leading to the camp from kilometer marker 6.7 was rutted with numerous fresh tank imprints. The road was blocked by a barrier 200 meters from the highway. Vehicular traffic was light, but the noise from the military reservation indicated intensive training activity. Trucks seen leaving the area were occupied by soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. *

2. A hutment located about 1 km west of Bittkau was occupied by an undetermined number of troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. Intensive traffic, particularly between the camp and the Elbe River, was noticed. Because source saw several amphibious vehicles, he concluded that the camp also quartered an engineer unit. The billeting area was very strictly guarded. Vehicles observed there included trucks, sedan and amphibious car. **

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* Comment. The camp is reported for the first time and, according to the information it may quarter tank units. However, no definite conclusion as to the identity of the units in the camp can be made since the two trucks belong to the GOFG and headquarters units of the LXIX Itz Rifle Corps.

** Comment. The information refers to the camp in the woods of Bittkau, which quarters engineer units which conduct their summer training on the Elbe River. The vehicles mentioned in the present report belong to headquarters units, including engineer units, of the Third Shock Army and to components of the 19th Gds Mecz Div. For a sketch of the two troop camps, see Annex.

1 Annex: 1 sketch on ditto.

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